

Message Text

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EA:WCHAMBERLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T STATE 227688

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 25550 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 05 SEP 78

QUOTE S E C R E T BANGKOK 25550

NODIS

EA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OAKLEY FROM ABRAMOWITZ

E.O.11562: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR VM TH

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH KRIANGSAK

REF A. STATE 224186 B. STATE 224189

1. MANY THANKS YOUR MESSAGE. IT WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL

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AND KRIANGSAK, DESPITE HIS FANTASTICALLY BUSY SCHEDULE
THESE DAYS, WAS VERY PLEASED AT THIS POINT TO RECEIVE A
STATEMENT ON HOW WE PLAN TO HANDLE OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE SRV.

2. KRIANGSAK SAW ME RIGHT AWAY BETWEEN ENDLESS SESSIONS
WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THE CABINET AND OTHER

GROUPS PREPARING FOR PHAM VAN DONG'S TRIP, AS WELL AS WITH A HOST OF FOREIGN VISITORS. I TOLD HIM OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE NEED TO STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT, AND SET FORTH AS IN REF CABLES OUR PLANS FOR DEALING WITH SRV ON NORMALIZATION. WHILE HE TOOK NOTES, AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION, HE ASKED ME TO WRITE DOWN THE PRINCIPAL POINTS FOR HIM, STUCK ME IN HIS OFFICE WHILE HE WENT TO CHAIR A MEETING, AND SUBSEQUENTLY CAME OUT OF THAT SESSION TO GET MY HANDWRITTEN PRESENTATION.

3. KRIANGSAK SAID THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE NO SIGNING OF ANY FRIENDSHIP TREATY. THERE WILL BE A COMMUNIQUE; THE THAIS ARE CAREFULLY GOING OVER THE DRAFT VERSION SUPPLIED BY THE SRV. HE SAID THEY WILL PROCEED VERY CAUTIOUSLY AND DO NOTHING WHICH WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THEIR RELATIONS WITH PEKING, PHNOM PENH, OR THEIR ASEAN PARTNERS. IF THERE ARE ANY PRIORITIES IN THAILAND'S RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE COMMUNISTS, THE HIGHEST PRIORITY WAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH PEKING. THEY WOULD DO NOTHING WITH THE SRV WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE THAT RELATIONSHIP.

4. I ASKED HIM WHAT DEGREE OF COORDINATION THAILAND HAD HAD WITH ITS ASEAN PARTNERS ON THE DONG VISIT, AND HE SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN AS MUCH AS HE WISHED. HE HAD SEEN THE MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPORE AMBASSADORS AND WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE SEEING THE
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PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR (THE NEW INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET ARRIVED).

5. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE LONG PRIVATE TALKS WITH PHAM VAN DONG AT WHICH HE WOULD BRING UP INTER ALIA THE SOVIET ROLE IN THE AREA AND THE SRV-CAMBODIAN SITUATION. HE WAS SURE HE WOULD HEAR A GOOD DEAL FROM THE VIETNAMESE ABOUT THEIR TROUBLES WITH CHINA AND KAMPUCHEA. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE VIETNAMESE APPEARED TO BE PRESSING FOR SO MANY THINGS, I ASKED WHETHER THE THAIS HAVE ANYTHING UP THEIR SLEEVES FOR THE VIETNAMESE. HE SMILED AND SAID HE HAD A FEW THINGS BUT DID NOT ELABORATE.

6. I WAS DISCONCERTED BY THE DRAFT REMARKS HE SHOWED ME FOR THE OPENING SESSION OF THE TALKS. IN THESE REMARKS HE URGES AND APPLAUDS THE SRV'S JOINING ASEAN, STATES THAT THE THAIS WOULD PURSUE SRV MEMBERSHIP WITH THE OTHER ASEAN PARTNERS, AND THAT THAILAND WOULD ALSO WELCOME THE APPLICATIONS OF OTHER STATES LIKE LAOS, CAMBODIA AND BURMA TO ASEAN. HE ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT OF THESE REMARKS. I SAID I WAS NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON THEM OFFICIALLY. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, BUT WANTED VERY MUCH TO HEAR MY

PERSONAL VIEWS. I SAID THAT HE DID NOT NEED MY ADVICE AND THAT WE BOTH KNEW HE WOULD DEAL WITH THE DONG TRIP WITH HIS USUAL DIPLOMATIC SKILL. I DID THINK THAT WHILE ASEAN RULES ALLOW FOR AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP, IN DETERMINING THEIR APPROACH TO POSSIBLE VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP IN ASEAN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED:

-- DOES THAILAND WANT TO GET OUT AHEAD ON THIS SUBJECT WITHOUT CONFERRING CLOSELY WITH ASEAN MEMBERS?

-- WHY SHOULD THE THAIS RAISE IT ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE?

-- CAN ASEAN SURVIVE AS AN ORGANIZATION IF IT INCLUDES STATES HAVING RADICALLY DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS?

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-- HAVE THE CONDITIONS OF TRUST BETWEEN THE PRESENT ASEAN MEMBERS AND VIETNAM BEEN SUFFICIENTLY ESTABLISHED SO AS TO PROVIDE A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP?

-- WHAT WOULD BE CHINA'S REACTION TO A THAI EFFORT TO BRING VIETNAM INTO ASEAN?

KRIANGSAK LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SAID, "WELL, THIS IS

ONLY A VERY ROUGH FIRST DRAFT."

7. COMMENT: THE THAI FOREIGN OFFICE MAY BE COORDINATING WITH THE OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS, BUT I AM LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT KRIANGSAK MAY BE WELL AHEAD OF HIS ASEAN PARTNERS. I AM REASONABLY CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE THAIS WILL FIND AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO HANDLE THEIR VISITOR, DEFUSE HIS DEMANDS, BUT STILL FIND USEFUL WAYS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WITHOUT IMPAIRING RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. ABRAMOWITZ

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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